briefed or the stand to be taken of the terms of reference and modalities for holding such a meeting including nuclear non-proliferation; and

(d) if so, on what lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) India has always been concerned over the threat posed to international peace and security by the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This has now assumed a qualitatively new dimension with the possible loss of control over some nuclear arsenals and the possibility of uncontrolled spread of ready-made unclear weapons across the globe by a variety of means and methods. India firmly believes that the issue of nuclear weapon proliferation can be effectively dealt with only through a global approach and in the framework of a universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory regime linked to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons. India is prepared to talk bilaterally with the USA and other friendly countries on all aspects of non-proliferation, but given the practical situation and ground realities, we believe that the matter cannot be dealt with a meeting of 5 States. In Washington, the Foreign Secretary reiterated India's stand on nuclear non-proliferation on above lines.

3254. (*Withdrawn*)

Government's stand on Pakistan demand for talks on Kashmir Issue

3255. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed its stand on the repeated demand of Pakistan for talks on the Kashmir issue in the context of continued active Pak-support to militants in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab; and

(b) if so, what is Government's revised stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) India remains committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement. In order, however, to ensure meaningful discussions, especially on the more complex bilateral issues, Pakistan must abandon —its negative poicy towards India and stop its support to terrorism. This would held in the generation of trust and confidence and create a climate conducive purposeful dialogue.

Bilateral talks with Mauritius

3256. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Mauritius held discussion with his counterpart thereon several issues;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held;

(c) the outcome of the talks held; and

(d) whether the relation with the Mauritius has been strengthened and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Prime Minister visited Mauritius at the special invitation of the Prime Minister of Mauritius, as "Chief Guest" for the celebrations marking the accession of Mauritius to the status of a Republic, which also coincided with its 24th independence Anniversary.